**Minutes of the First Meeting of the Chief Scientists of the Africa RISING Program**

**4th May, 2017, Bale, Ethiopia.**

**1. Present**

Kindu Mekonnen: Ethiopian Highland Project (ETH)

Mateete Bekunda: East and Southern Africa Project (ESA)

Asamoah Larbi: West Africa Project (WA)

**2. Agenda**

*2.1. Discuss and give ideas on following issues identified by the PCT at their April meeting*

2.1.1 Roles and responsibility of the Chief Scientists (CS) in relation to management.

2.1.2 Cross-project visits and how to implement them.

2.1.3 Publications – best practice guidelines.

2.1.4 Communities of Practice: cross-cutting topics – e.g., typologies, SI domains, capacity building etc.

2.1.5 Definition of an Africa RISING ‘Technology’

*2.2. Discuss presentation format by CS at the SAG meeting in June.*

**3. Summary of discussion**

3.1 Issues from PTC Meeting

At its April meeting in Nairobi, the PCT identified five project related issues listed above, and solicited ideas on the topics from the Chief Scientists. The issues were relayed to Asamoah and Mateete by the Project Managers in Nairobi on 07 April 2017. The issues were discussed at the first meeting of the Chief Scientists on 4th May, 2017 at Bale, Ethiopia. Their responses and ideas are summarized in the table below.

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|  | Topic | Chief Scientists’ recommendation |
| 1 | Roles and responsibility of the CS in relation to project management | Each CS has an individual institutional contract which spells out their roles and responsibilities. The contract spells out the ToR that guide implementation of the CS’s activities to meet his contract’s obligations, including those that relate to responsibility to the Project Managers. There has been no dissatisfaction with these ToRs from the CSs. Hence, the CSs felt that discussion on the topic should be done at a higher level if there was any particular reason for bringing up this issue. |
| 2 | Cross-project visits | 2.1 Ideal periods for cross-project visits identified for each project were:  WA: September-October  ETH: September-October  ESA: March-April  .  2.2 A Chief Scientist of a project who is scheduled to host a cross-project visit should notify the other Chief Scientists of the opportunity and the purpose of the visit 6-8 weeks in advance. A minimum of 6 participants is proposed for a meaningful and cost-effective cross-project visit. Participation should be confirmed at least 2 weeks before the event.  2.3 A scheduled visit should also present an opportunity for the meeting of the CS, which would include an agenda item on refelections from the visit.  2.4. The CSs proposed a hosting schedule as follows:  Sep-Oct 2017 – WA Host  Mar-Apr 2018 – ESA Host  Sep-Oct 2018 – ET Host |
| 3 | Publication – best practice guidelines | 3.1 Peer review journal publications:  Should target journals on the Thompson Master List, and use the journals guidelines for authors in drafting the paper. All papers should be sent to the Chief Scientist of the project for a review before submission to the journal. The Chief Scientist should be kept informed on the progress of the paper.  3.2 Other technical reports/publication  The Communication Team should get clearance from the Chief Scientists before publishing any technical report on the AR network. |
| 4 | Communities of Practice: cross-cutting topics – e.g., typologies, SI domains, capacity building etc., etc. | The program has just constituted communities of practice with identified coordinators. Their performance should be monitored over a given period (1 year?) and experiences and lessons learnt from these should guide in the constitution of new CoPs. |
| 5 | Definition of an ‘Africa RISING Technology’ | The projects are currently using participatory approaches to evaluate and/or adapt several SI technologies/practices at the intervention communities in collaboration with several partners. An ‘Africa RISING Technology/Practice’ should therefore be a technology or a practice that has met requirements defined in at least 2 out of the 5 sustainable intensification domains; and should be supported/described by a protocol published on the AR websites. |

Agenda item 2.2 was not discussed due to time limitations.